



FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35637]

Watco Holdings, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Pecos Valley Permian Railroad, L.L.C. d/b/a Pecos Valley Southern Railway Company

Watco Holdings, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of Pecos Valley Permian Railroad, L.L.C. d/b/a Pecos Valley Southern Railway Company (PVR), upon PVR's becoming a Class III rail carrier. Watco owns, indirectly, 100 percent of the issued and outstanding stock of PVR, a Texas limited liability company.

This transaction is related to a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in Pecos Valley Permian Railroad, L.L.C. d/b/a Pecos Valley Southern Railway—Lease Exemption—Pecos Valley Southern Railway, Docket No. FD 35636, wherein PVR seeks Board approval to lease and operate approximately 24 miles of rail line owned by Pecos Valley Southern Railway Company between Pecos, Tex., and a point north of Saragosa, Tex.

The transaction may be consummated on or after August 26, 2012, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the notice of exemption was filed).

Watco is a Kansas corporation that currently controls, indirectly, one Class II rail carrier, operating in two states, and 25 Class III rail carriers, operating in 21 states.¹ For

¹ Watco notes that it has filed for Board approval to continue in control of San Antonio Central Railroad (SAC) upon SAC's becoming a Class III railroad by leasing and operating a four-mile line of railroad in San Antonio, Tex. See Watco Holdings, Inc.

a complete list of these rail carriers, and the states in which they operate, see Watco's notice of exemption filed on July 27, 2012. The notice is available on the Board's website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Watco represents that: (1) the rail lines to be operated by PVR do not connect with any of the rail lines operated by the carriers in the Watco corporate family; (2) the continuance in control is not a part of a series of anticipated transactions that would result in such a connection; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Watco states that the purpose of the transaction is to reduce overhead expenses, coordinate billing, maintenance, mechanical, and personnel policies and practices of its rail carrier subsidiaries and thereby improve the overall efficiency of rail service provided by the railroads in the Watco corporate family.

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Because the transaction involves the control of one Class II and one or more Class III rail carriers, the transaction is subject to the labor protection requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11326(b) and Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Acquisition Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad, 2 S.T.B. 218 (1997).

—Continuance in Control Exemption—San Antonio Cent. R.R., FD 35604 (STB served June 15, 2012).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed by August 17, 2012 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35637, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, 655 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at
“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: August 6, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig

Clearance Clerk

[FR Doc. 2012-19651 Filed 08/09/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 08/10/2012]